

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02308

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, UNGA

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: US CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRENCH ON
MACHINERY; JUNE 6, 1978

1. SUMMARY: US AMB. FISHER MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF
FRENCH DEL JUNE 6 TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE QUESTION OF
CREATING NEW INTERNATIONAL MACHINERY FOR DEALING WITH
DISARMAMENT ISSUES. THE FRENCH STATED THAT THEY WOULD
PARTICIPATE IN A NEW MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATING BODY
PROVIDED ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE WHICH ADEQUATELY
RESOLVED FRENCH CONCERNS (ELABORATED BELOW). ON MOST
ASPECTS OF THIS ISSUE, THE FRENCH INDICATED CONSIDERABLE
FLEXIBILITY, HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO BE ADAMANT
THAT THE CCD MUST DISBAND AND THAT A NEW MULTILATERAL
NEGOTIATING BODY WOULD BE "CREATED BY" THE UN. END
SUMMARY.

2. DURING US/FRENCH CONSULTATIONS ON MACHINERY, JUNE
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6, FRENCH DELOFFS STATED THAT THEY WANTED TO BE
SURE THE US UNDERSTANDS THAT FRANCE IS NOW PREPARED
TO PARTICIPATE IN A NEW MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT
NEGOTIATING BODY, PROVIDED CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WHICH
THE GOF CONSIDERED TO BE ESSENTIAL, WERE MET (CONDITIONS
AS STATED JUNE 6, ARE CONTAINED PARA 3 BELOW). THE
FRENCH WERE MORE POSITIVE AND DIRECT IN DISCUSSING THE

DETAILS OF THEIR PROPOSALS ON MACHINERY THAN THEY HAVE BEEN IN THE PAST ON THIS ISSUE AND INDICATED SOME FLEXIBILITY REGARDING THE MECHANICS OF RESTRUCTURING THE INTERNATIONAL DISARMAMENT MACHINERY AND ACTUAL FORMULATIONS FOR THE SSOD FINAL DOCUMENT.

3. FRENCH DEL REITERATED CONDITIONS FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY AS:

3.A. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON DISARMAMENT MUST DISBAND.

? A NEW MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY MUST BE "CREATED BY" THE UNGA; ITS MEMBERSHIP WOULD BE DECIDED AND FIXED BY THE UNGA.

C. THE NEW NEGOTIATING BODY WOULD "REPORT TO" THE UNGA.

FYI. FRENCH DELOFF SAID THAT CONDITIONS B AND C ABOVE WERE THE "MORE CONCRETE TIES" TO THE UN THE FRENCH REFERRED TO IN THEIR GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT MAY 25. END FYI.

D. THE NEW BODY WOULD OPERATE ON THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS. THE UN RESOLUTION CREATING IT COULD INCORPORATE THIS PROVISION.

E. THE NEW BODY WOULD BE MASTER OF ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE.

F. THE NEW BODY WOULD FIX ITS OWN AGENDA.

G. THE CURRENT CCD SYSTEM OF THE US-USSR CO-CHAIRMANSHIP WOULD BE REPLACED BY A "MORE DEMOCRATIC" SYSTEM. (FRENCH CONFIDENTIAL

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DELOFF D'AMECOURT STATED THAT THE GOF CURRENTLY WERE ATTRACTED TO THE IDEA OF A SINGLE CHAIRMAN WHO WOULD BE A PROMINENT INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANT.)

H. MEMBERSHIP IN THE NEW BODY WOULD BE RESTRICTED AND LIMITED TO THE CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE CCD PLUS 10 TO 15 NEW MEMBERS, ALSO MEMBERS OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL. (FYI. WHEN ASKED IF THE GOF INTENDED TO PURSUE SUPPORT ACTIVELY FOR THEIR EARLIER IDEA OF ROTATIONAL MEMBERSHIP, FRENCH DELOFF D'AMECOURT SAID THAT THE INITIAL REACTION AMONG NON-ALIGNED DELS TO THIS ASPECT OF THE FRENCH PROPOSAL HAD BEEN NEGATIVE AND, THEREFORE, FRENCH DEL WAS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS POINT AND DID NOT INTEND TO PUSH IT. END FYI.)

4. US DEL STATED THAT THE US WAS CONTINUING TO TAKE A FLEXIBLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE QUESTION OF MACHINERY AND THAT OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE WAS TO ENSURE THAT MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED TO BE CONDUCTED IN AN EFFECTIVE FORUM, RELATIVELY FREE OF POLEMICS, WHICH OPERATED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS, HAD A LIMITED MEMBERSHIP, AND WAS MASTER OF ITS OWN RULES OF PROCEDURE. USDEL SAID THAT IT APPEARED THE VIEWS OF THE

TWO DELEGATIONS CONVERGED ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES AND THAT THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE RELATED TO THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE NEGOTIATING BODY TO THE UN (SEE PARA 3, POINTS B AND C). FRENCH DELOFF EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOF CONSIDERED THESE ELEMENTS THE PRINCIPAL CONDITIONS FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN A MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY. US DELOFF STATED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION ON THIS ASPECT OF THE ISSUE WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD, BUT THAT THE USG WOULD HAVE TO STUDY FURTHER THE LEGAL AND POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF ALLOWING THE UN TO "CREATE" A NEW MULTILATERAL DISARMAMENT NEGOTIATING BODY TO ENSURE THAT THE PRACTICAL AUTONOMY OF SUCH A BODY COULD AND WOULD BE GUARANTEED. YOUNG

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